

For Thin Babies

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Homely Facts About Dairying.

The Rural New Yorker prints a very instructive article about dairying. Though intended for large dairies most that is said will apply equally well to the small one. If you cannot grow clover hay you can grow several good substitutes for it. We believe that carrots could be raised here and there is no better food for a milch cow. A silo will enable you to have food at hand all the time that will keep up the flow of milk as well as if on pasture.

Profit in butter making depends on two things, good care and growing our feed, for there is not a hundred pounds of butter in a ton of bran or cornmeal, as there must be at present prices to get back their cost. Therefore we must grow clover hay, oats, corn, rye or wheat; have them ground, sell the flour and feed the bran; also grow carrots. Turn the corn crop into silage (sweet), except such as is needed for the additional grain feed, grind that in the ear with oats, and that by a good farm mill, to save the miller's toll.

Carrots have an assisting acid, besides adding flavor to the butter which adds to its market value, and they

also give the butter a better color. As important as the above feeding is the cow's comfort. Nothing eats up butter faster than discomfort and fear, because they shrink the butter fat and so make their milk, which is steering the butter into the manure pile instead of into the churn. Therefore have warm floors and warm stables; a cow cannot run a furnace and a churn with the one feed. My floors rest on packed earth, by which they never freeze, and the stable is lined and the spaces filled with sawdust, by which the thermometer never gets below 40 degrees. Another butter eater is the stanchion. Farmers are very careful to have for themselves warm floors and feather beds, but leave their dutiful cows hanging by the neck in the cruel stocks named stanchions, to get what sleep they can on a frost-carpeted floor; both should be abolished by law as cruelty to animals. It is much more profitable to keep a less number of cows by dividing the stable into narrow box stalls, than the greater number in stanchions.

We can also class the horns with butter eaters, and the boss cow eats more butter than the farmer's family, for every time she spears the other cow, shrink goes the butter fat. Her ally is the dog. A milkman out of Albany was known as "Old Bluemilk," and he was the record breaker. He fed as much as the other milkmen, and kept as good cows, but he also kept a shepherd dog, which he sent every day for the cows, and which the dog brought home on a full run. Another, and a double eater, is the noisy, rough milker. Doubtless the discomfort family eats more butter than the human family, which means that butter costs double what it needs to produce. The farmer should ponder, not how to get his cow to eat more feed, but how to help her appropriate what she does eat for her udder, instead of for the barnyard. They might experiment with the extract of repose.

As to the growing of our feed crops, clover hay, with improved harvesting machines, can be raised and put into the barn for less than \$2 a ton, and in connection with silage a cow will eat less than a ton between October and pasture. Silage, with improved farm implements, can be put into the silo for less than one dollar a ton, and a cow will do finely (a Jersey) on a ton a month. Carrots can be raised for less than 10 cents a bushel, and a cow will not require over a peck a day. The oat straw can be made to pay for the oats, and the cornstalks for the corn. Then add to the above feeding one pound of linseed meal and two pounds of cottonseed meal, per cow per day, and we will have first-class butter at a profit. We might add to the butter account the value of the manure made and used beyond that applied on the feeding crops, which would be considerable if all the manure is carefully saved; i. e., the liquid as well as the solid, as it contains over half of the plant food that an animal voids, so that a farmer who allows it to run to waste is as brilliant as the one who allows a neighbor to steal half of his manure.

Besides saving there is a great gain in spreading the manure on the sod intended for next year's corn as soon as the hay is off, which saves the wash from rain while in the yard. Still another source of saving or gaining is in buying the cows instead of raising them. It takes two years to make a calf a producer; two years of feed and care, without pay, and she may die, or worse, she may turn out a four-pounder instead of a fourteen-pounder, as she ought to. During such time a good cow will produce three calves, a thousand pounds of butter and a large amount of skim-milk and buttermilk.

When buying a cow demand a guarantee that she will make eight pounds of butter on pasture; then raise her by good care and feeding towards the 14-pounder, and my way of getting such cows for nothing is to buy four or five others that promise a profit

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in selling, which profit pays for the cow I keep instead of myself, so that when the dairy is complete there is as much money in the bank as when starting. It is merely a question of more capital and common sense with zeal. The farmer who would be successful should stop and ask himself: "Is this the wisest thing for me to do? Is this the best way of doing it?" He should consult with his wife on farming business, and to that add a farm paper to consult with. I heard a farmer say that he had no money to fool on farm papers, and no time to fool reading them. At the same season he sold his apples at \$1.50 a barrel, when if he had read the market reports in the paper he would have seen that they were selling at \$2.50, by which he could have made enough to pay the subscription for a hundred years.

Fraudulent Fruit Tree Men at Work.

There are honest agents that canvass for the sale of fruit trees, plants, etc. And there are responsible nurseries that still send out agents. When one of these comes along he will have some credentials, if these are satisfactory, and you need any of the stock offered, you will be safe in giving him an order. But the majority of the traveling tree peddlers are to be avoided. As a rule they offer wonderful things that no one else can get, and charge fabulous prices for them. The stock that they deliver cannot be relied upon at all.

But occasionally some that are outright swindlers come along. A gang of them are at work in Texas, and Mr. Stringfellow describes their methods in the Farm and Ranch. If they happen to come your way do not let them into the house but order them off the place at once.

Allow me to call attention to a very extensive swindle that is now being perpetrated upon fruit growers in many parts of the state, especially in Western Texas. I will say, however, that I have no personal interest in the matter, not being in the nursery business, nor having any trees for sale. I am reliably informed that certain persons have been working this part of the state with pictures, fruits in jars. (fruit probably made of wax) and horticultural tree nostrums that are so palpably fraudulent that the wonder is that any sensible man could be deceived. And yet I am positively assured that orders for more than \$3000 worth of such trees have been taken in Llano county, \$2000 in Burnet county and several hundred dollars worth in Lampasas, which they are now just beginning to invade. These parties studiously avoid the immediate neighborhood of

any reliable nurseryman nor do they ever offer him any of their wares.

They are selling roses, warranted to bear flowers six inches across, fruit trees of all kinds absolutely immune to blight, rot and other diseases, the bodies of which no rabbit will touch. Then, to the man who has been so unfortunate as not to have planted their wonderful trees, they extend the horticultural "balm of Gilead" in the shape of various serums and powders, done up in fancy colored papers and bottles. Inoculate a fruit tree from one bottle and it will be immune to disease for all time, then with another and all the pear, peach, plum and apple trees will become rabbit proof, the bark turning so bitter and offensive that no rabbit's stomach can stand it. But the remarkable effect of these inoculations does not stop here, but is so far reaching that the blossoms become perpetually frost proof the following spring, fruit trees of all kinds never failing to bear full crops of fruit so nauseating to the cuculio and all other insects and worms that it gags them, just as the bark does the rabbit. The price of the various bottles is only one dollar each, while for the same reasonable sum one can buy any one of the various fruit trees. So far as I can learn, the only horticultural wonder that these tree necromancers have not offered is one that will have all kinds of fruit on the same tree, though possibly this gang is not quite up-to-date, and that sort of a combination fruit tree is being offered elsewhere.

I hope the papers will publish this warning that the horticultural millennium has not yet dawned, which would really seem unnecessary except to idiots, for it will be a very serious loss not only to the buyer, but also to the nurseryman to be thus cut out of his sales of honest stock.

There is not one word of truth or one cent in value to any of these frauds now being offered, the perpetrators of which will never again be heard of after they get their victims' money in their pockets. To all those who have made part payment on such orders, I would say, make the rascal disgorge, if you have to take a stick to him.

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